IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claims 1-16 (Canceled)

Claim 17 (Currently Amended): An image forming method comprising steps of:

forming a latent image on a latent image retaining body;

developing the latent image on the latent image retaining body using a liquid developer, the liquid developer comprising an electrically insulating solvent and a plurality of toner particles, each comprising a resin particle non-soluble in the electrically insulating solvent and colorant particles, the toner particles comprising a surface portion and an inside portion, a first density of the colorant particles per unit volume of the resin particle at the surface portion being larger than a second density of the colorant particles per unit volume of the resin particle at the inside portion, and

transferring an image developed on the latent image retaining body to an intermediate transfer body by applying a shear pressure to an image developed on the latent image retaining body,

wherein the colorant particles are selected from the group consisting of black, yellow, red, vermillion, blue, and green particles, and mixtures thereof.

Claim 18 (Original): The method of claim 17, wherein the transferring step comprises:

applying a pressure of 0.5 kg/cm^2 to 50 kg/cm^2 from the latent image retaining body to the intermediate transfer body at a transfer station during the transfer step with a surface of the intermediate transfer body at the transfer station moved faster or slower than a moving

speed of surface of the latent image retaining body at the transfer station during the transfer step.

Claim 19 (Original): The method of claim 18, wherein a surface speed of the intermediate transfer body at the transfer station ranges from about 80 % to about 99% or from about 101 % to about 120 % of a surface speed of the latent image retaining body at the transfer station.

Claim 20 (Canceled).

Claim 21 (Previously Presented): The method of claim 17, wherein a coverage rate of the surface of the resin particle by the colorant particles is 3.5% or more.

Claim 22 (Previously Presented): The method of claim 17, wherein the resin particle has a glass transition temperature of not less than room temperature.

Claim 23 (Previously Presented): The method of claim 17, wherein the colorant particles are selectively formed on a surface of the resin particle.

Claim 24 (Previously Presented): The method of claim 17, wherein the surface portion has a thickness of from about 10 nm to 1 μm.

Claim 25 (Previously Presented): The method of claim 17, wherein the surface portion of the toner particle has a thickness of about three times as the average diameter of

the colorant particles, and the inside portion of the toner particle is the rest of the toner particle other than the surface portion.

Claim 26 (Previously Presented): The method of claim 17, wherein the colorant particles are either black or a single color.

Claim 27 (Previously Presented): The method of claim 17, wherein the colorant particles comprise pigments.

Claim 28 (Previously Presented): The method of claim 17, additionally comprising, after the transferring step, transferring the image on the intermediate transfer body to a recording medium by applying pressure, wherein the speed of the intermediate transfer body and of a roller carrying the recording medium is the same.

Claim 29 (Currently Amended): An image forming method comprising steps of:

forming a latent image on a latent image retaining body;

developing the latent image on the latent image retaining body using a liquid developer, the liquid developer comprising an electrically insulating solvent and a plurality of toner particles, each comprising a resin particle non-soluble in the electrically insulating solvent and colorant particles, the toner particles comprising a surface portion and an inside portion, a first density of the colorant particles per unit volume of the resin particle at the surface portion being larger than a second density of the colorant particles per unit volume of the resin particle at the inside portion, and

transferring an image developed on the latent image retaining body to an intermediate transfer body at a transfer station by moving a surface of the intermediate transfer body at the

transfer station faster or slower than a moving speed of surface of the latent image retaining body at the transfer station during the transfer step,

wherein a coverage rate of the surface of the resin particle by the colorant particles is 3.5 % or more.

Claim 30 (Previously Presented): The method of claim 29, wherein the surface speed of the intermediate transfer body at the transfer station ranges about 80 % to about 99 % or an about 101 % to about 120 % of the moving speed of surface of the latent image retaining body at the transfer station.

Claim 31 (Canceled).

Claim 32 (Previously Presented): The method of claim 29, wherein the resin particles have a glass ransition temperature of not less than room temperature.

Claim 33 (Previously Presented): The method of claim 29, wherein the colorant particles are selectively formed on a surface of the resin particle.

Claim 34 (Previously Presented): The method of claim 29, wherein the surface portion has a thickness of from about 10 nm to 1 μm.

Claim 35 (Previously Presented): The method of claim 29, wherein the surface portion of the toner particle has a thickness of about three times as the average diameter of the colorant particles, and the inside portion of the toner particle is the rest of the toner particle other than the surface portion.

Claim 36 (Previously Presented): The method of claim 30, further comprising,

after the transferring step, transferring the image on the intermediate transfer body to a recording medium by applying pressure, wherein the speed of the intermediate transfer body and of a roller carrying the recording medium is the same.

Claim 37 (New): An image forming method comprising steps of:

forming a latent image on a latent image retaining body;

developing the latent image on the latent image retaining body using a liquid developer, the liquid developer comprising an electrically insulating solvent and a plurality of toner particles, each comprising a resin particle non-soluble in the electrically insulating solvent and colorant particles, the toner particles comprising a surface portion and an inside portion, a first density of the colorant particles per unit volume of the resin particle at the surface portion being larger than a second density of the colorant particles per unit volume of the resin particle at the inside portion, and

transferring an image developed on the latent image retaining body to an intermediate transfer body at a transfer station by moving a surface of the intermediate transfer body at the transfer station faster or slower than a moving speed of surface of the latent image retaining body at the transfer station during the transfer step,

wherein the surface portion of the toner particle has a thickness of about three times as the average diameter of the colorant particles, and the inside portion of the toner particle is the rest of the toner particle other than the surface portion.

DISCUSSION OF THE AMENDMENT

Claim 17 has been amended by incorporating the subject matter of Claim 20 therein; Claim 20 has been canceled. Claim 29 has been amended by incorporating the subject matter of Claim 31 therein; Claim 31 has been canceled. New Claim 37 has been added, which is equivalent in scope to Claim 35, prior to the above amendment.

No new matter is believed to have been added by the above amendment. With entry thereof, Claims 17-19, 21-30 and 32-37 will be pending in the application.